

# Shorebird Monitoring



Hilton Head Island, SC

Fran Baer



# Monitoring on HHI

- Monitoring Port Royal and Mitchelville beaches (about 1.5 miles)
- Piping plover monitoring started in 2009
- Red Knot monitoring started in 2017
- 57 banded piping plovers:
  - 34 banded birds seen for one season
  - 14 banded birds seen for two seasons
  - 4 banded birds seen for three seasons
  - 2 banded birds seen for four seasons
  - 1 banded bird seen for five seasons (P8P)
  - 2 banded birds seen for six seasons (X47 and YY)





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*Fran Baer/Baer Tracks Studio*









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THIS AREA IS ESSENTIAL TO  
PIPING FLOWERS



WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT THIS ENDANGERED SPECIES

- GIVE THEM SPACE FROM A DISTANCE
- AVOID CHASING BIRDS TO FLY
- KEEP PETS OFF THE BEACH
- PICK UP YOUR TRASH

ENJOY YOUR DAY AT THE BEACH!

TOWARD WILDLIFE, ANTI-POLLUTION, RECREATION & EDUCATION





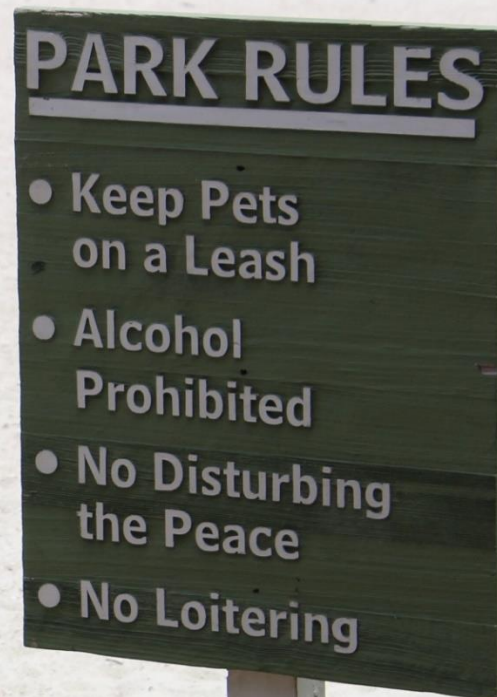


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# Monitoring (cont'd)

- Red knots seen sporadically on HHI
- 15 banded birds seen since 2017, all only once
- Most birds seen in flocks; rare instances of one – three birds seen
- Challenges to shorebird protection on HHI:
  - Large number of beach users
  - Level of awareness, especially among visitors
  - Differing local regulations, depending on location
  - Staffing for enforcement
  - Changing habitat







**Share-Beach**  
WITH OUR WILDLIFE

Our beaches are home to thousands of shorebirds and sea turtles. They come to our beaches to rest, feed, and breed. Some species nest here in the spring and summer while others come here to migrate through in the spring and fall.

**The Flying Plover's Journey**

Shorebirds and sea turtles are migratory animals. They travel long distances between their nesting grounds and their wintering grounds. The Flying Plover's Journey is a map showing the migration routes of the Flying Plover. The map shows the bird's path from its nesting grounds in the spring and fall to its wintering grounds in the summer.

**Food for Our Birds**

Shorebirds and sea turtles rely on the beach for food. They eat a variety of foods, including insects, small fish, and shellfish. The beach provides a safe place for them to feed and grow.

**Nesting Shorebirds and Sea Turtles**

Shorebirds and sea turtles come to the beach to nest. They dig holes in the sand to lay their eggs. The beach provides a safe place for them to nest and raise their young.

**Help Protect Our Beach-Dependent Wildlife**

There are many ways to help protect our beach-dependent wildlife. You can help by staying on the beach and not disturbing the wildlife. You can also help by reporting any sightings of wildlife to the appropriate authorities.

**Wahkiakum County**





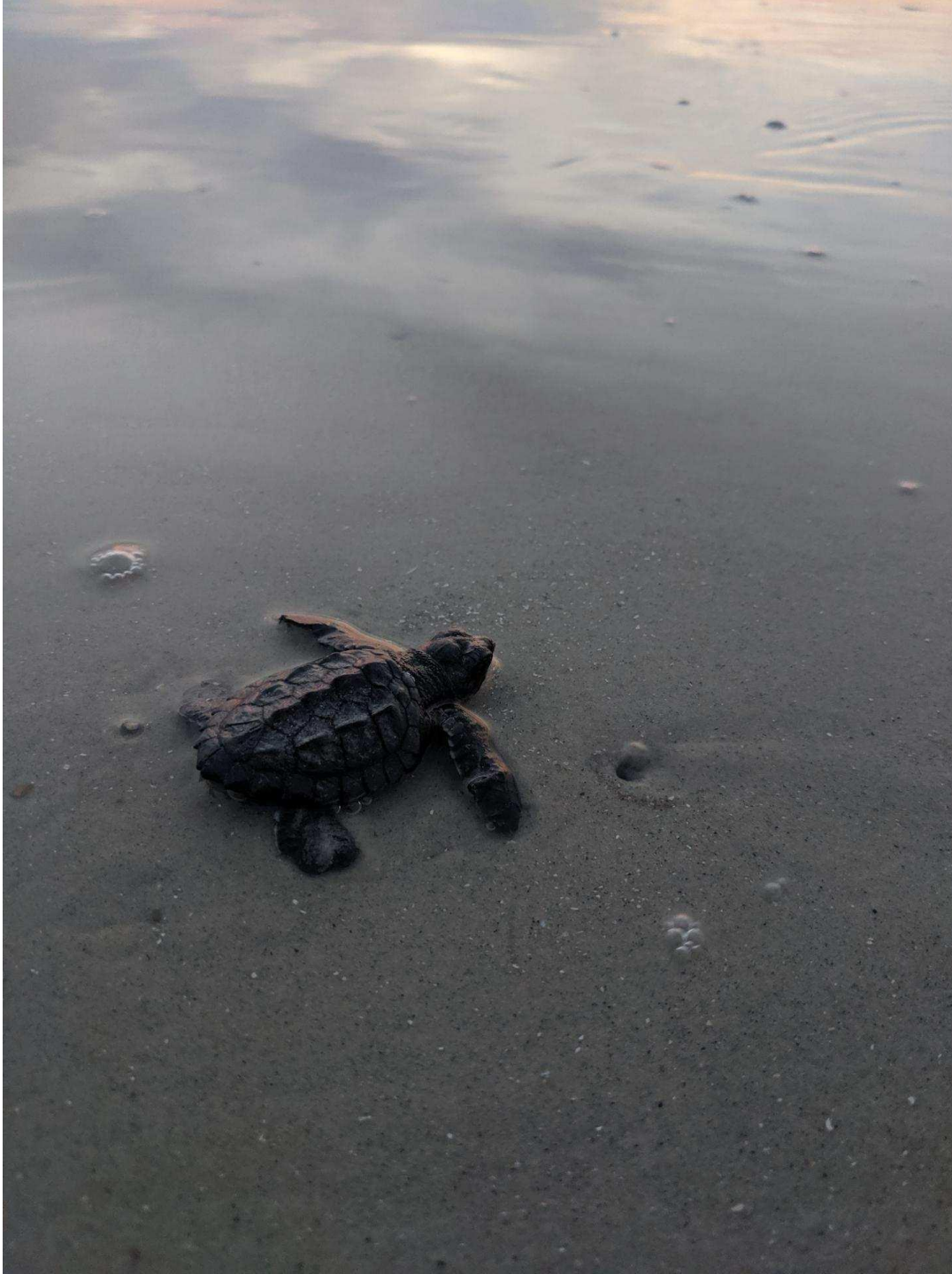












121 eggs, 115 hatched, 6 unhatched, 4 hatchlings in nest (released)

# Thank you!

Sally Krebs

Sustainable Practices Coordinator

Town of Hilton Head Island

Adjunct Professor, Biology

USCB